AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display element comprising:

a first electrode structure having a first transparent substrate, a first electrode formed on said first substrate, and a first rubbed alignment layer formed on said first substrate so as to cover said first electrode;

a second electrode structure having a second transparent substrate, a second electrode formed on said second substrate, and a second rubbed alignment layer formed on said second substrate so as to cover said second electrode; and

a light modulating layer of an anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material which is sandwiched between said first and second electrode substrates covered with first and second rubbed alignment layers and which has a thresholdless voltage-transmittance characteristic,

wherein said first and second alignment layers are combined with said liquid crystal material so that a shifted angle between the extending direction and an optical axis of a *batonnet* is within $\pm$ 1 degree; and

wherein said first and second rubbed alignment layers have a surface tension of 49 dyn/cm to 53 dyn/cm.

2. (Original) A liquid crystal display element as set forth in claim 1, wherein the optical axis of a *batonnet* deposited from said first electrode substrate is

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substantially coincident with the optical axis of a *batonnet* deposited from said second electrode substrate.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled).

5. (Original) A liquid crystal display element as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first electrode substrate is an array substrate comprising: a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, which are provided on said first substrate in the form of a matrix; switching elements, each of which is formed at a corresponding one of the intersections between said scanning lines and said signal lines, one end of each of said switching elements being connected to a corresponding one of said signal lines, each of said switching elements being open and closed in response to a signal of a corresponding one of said scanning lines; pixel electrodes, each of which is connected to the other end of a corresponding one of said switching elements; and said first alignment layer formed on said first substrate so as to cover said pixel electrodes, and

said second electrode substrate is a counter substrate comprising a counter electrode formed on said second substrate, and said second alignment layer formed on said second substrate so as to cover said counter substrate.

6. (Original) A liquid crystal display element as set forth in claim 2, wherein said first electrode substrate is an array substrate comprising: a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, which are provided on said first substrate in the form of a matrix; switching elements, each of which is formed at a corresponding one of the intersections

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between said scanning lines and said signal lines, one end of each of said switching elements being connected to a corresponding one of said signal lines, each of said switching elements being open and closed in response to a signal of a corresponding one of said scanning lines; pixel electrodes, each of which is connected to the other end of a corresponding one of said switching elements; and said first alignment layer formed on said first substrate so as to cover said pixel electrodes, and

said second electrode substrate is a counter substrate comprising a counter electrode formed on said second substrate, and said second alignment layer formed on said second substrate so as to cover said counter substrate.

7. (Original) A liquid crystal display element as set forth in claim 3, wherein said first electrode substrate is an array substrate comprising: a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, which are provided on said first substrate in the form of a matrix; switching elements, each of which is formed at a corresponding one of the intersections between said scanning lines and said signal lines, one end of each of said switching elements being connected to a corresponding one of said signal lines, each of said switching elements being open and closed in response to a signal of a corresponding one of said scanning lines; pixel electrodes, each of which is connected to the other end of a corresponding one of said switching elements; and said first alignment layer formed on said first substrate so as to cover said pixel electrodes, and

said second electrode substrate is a counter substrate comprising a counter electrode formed on said second substrate, and said second alignment layer formed on said second substrate so as to cover said counter substrate.

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Claims 8-13 (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display element comprising:

a first substrate including, a first electrode formed on said first substrate, and a first alignment layer wherein said first alignment layer covers said first electrode;

a second substrate including, a second electrode formed on said second substrate, and a second alignment layer wherein said second alignment layer covers said second electrode; and

a light modulating layer of an anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material between said first and second substrates and wherein said anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material has a thresholdless voltage-transmittance characteristic,

wherein said first and second alignment layers are combined with said liquid crystal material so an angle between an extending direction and an optical axis of a *batonnet* is within about $\pm$1 degree; and

wherein said first and second rubbed alignment layers have a surface tension of 49 dyn/cm to 53 dyn/cm.

15. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display element of claim 14, wherein the optical axis of a *batonnet* deposited from said first substrate is substantially coincident with the optical axis of a *batonnet* deposited from said second substrate.

Claims 16 and 17 (Canceled).

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18. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display element as set forth in claim 14 further comprising a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, on said first substrate; switching elements of each of which is formed at a corresponding one of the intersections between said scanning lines and signal lines, one end of each of said switching elements being connected to a corresponding one of said signal lines; pixel electrodes, each of which is connected to the other end of a corresponding one of said switching elements; and said first alignment layer formed on said first substrate so as to cover said pixel electrodes, and said second electrode substrate is a counter substrate comprising a counter electrode formed on said second substrate, and said second alignment layer formed on said second substrate so as to cover said counter substrate.

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